

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

1 – 16. (Cancelled)

17. (New) A clamping and/or spreading tool, the clamping and/or spreading tool comprising:

a stationary jaw;

a support fixedly connected to said stationary jaw;

a push or pull rod slideably supported on said support;

a distance driver engageable with the push or pull rod;

a force driver engageable with the push or pull rod;

a movable jaw fixedly arranged on the push or pull rod; and

a trigger defining a first lever arm and a second lever arm, the trigger operably connected to the distance driver by a decoupling mechanism, the decoupling mechanism comprising a coupling rod and a release mechanism,

wherein the trigger defines the first lever arm when the trigger applies a force to the distance driver through the coupling rod, and

wherein the trigger defines the second lever arm when the trigger applies a force to the force driver when the release mechanism disconnects the coupling rod from the distance driver.

18. (New) The clamping and/or spreading tool according to claim 17, wherein the release mechanism disconnects the trigger from the distance driver when a threshold force is applied to the trigger.

19. (New) The clamping and/or spreading tool according to claim 17, wherein the coupling rod comprises a first end connected to the trigger at a first hinge and a second end connected to the distance driver by means of a dished end portion pressure mated to a ball, wherein the dished end portion releases from the ball when a threshold force is exceeded.

20. (New) The clamping and/or spreading tool according to claim 19, further comprising a spring that urges the dished end portion against the ball.
21. (New) The clamping and/or spreading tool according to claim 17, wherein the first lever arm displaces the push or pull rod a first distance and the second lever arm displaces the push or pull rod a second distance, wherein the first distance is larger than the second distance.
22. (New) The clamping and/or spreading tool according to claim 17, further comprising a lock configured to prevent displacement of the push or pull rod in a reverse direction, the lock being actuatable to allow displacement of the push or pull rod in the reverse direction..
23. (New) The clamping and/or spreading tool according to claim 22, wherein the lock comprises a recoupling mechanism for reconnecting the coupling rod to the release mechanism when the lock is actuated.
24. (New) A clamping and/or spreading tool, the clamping and/or spreading tool comprising:
  - a stationary jaw;
  - a support fixedly connected to said stationary jaw;
  - a push or pull rod movably supported on said support;
  - a movable jaw fixedly arranged on the push or pull rod;
  - a first trigger pivotably attached to the support; and
  - a second trigger pivotably attached to the support,wherein actuating the first trigger in a first direction displaces said push or pull rod in an advance direction, and
  - wherein actuating the second trigger in a second direction displaces said push or pull rod in the advance direction.
25. (New) The clamping and/or spreading tool according to claim 24, wherein said first trigger and said second trigger are alternately operateable.
26. (New) The clamping and/or spreading tool according to claim 24, wherein said first trigger and

said second trigger are pivotably attached to said support such that said first trigger and said second trigger feature opposing actuating directions and act as counter arms to one another.

27. (New) The clamping and/or spreading tool according to claim 24, wherein the first trigger and the second trigger are pivotably attached on opposite sides of the push or pull rod.
28. (New) The clamping and/or spreading tool according to claim 24, wherein the first trigger is pivotably attached on the support on the opposite side as the fixed jaw such that when the first trigger is fully actuated, the push or pull rod advances a first distance,  
wherein the second trigger is pivotably attached on the support on the same side as the fixed jaw such that when the second trigger is fully actuated, the push or pull rod advances a second distance, and  
wherein the first distance is greater than the second distance.
29. (New) The clamping and/or spreading tool according to claim 24, the push or pull rod being displaced by means of at least one driver, wherein the first trigger and the second trigger apply force to the at least one driver.
30. (New) The clamping and/or spreading tool according to claim 24, further comprising a lock having a driver and an actuating portion, wherein the driver is reversibly engageable with the push or pull rod, wherein when the actuating portion is in a neutral position the push or pull rod is prevented from movement in a reverse direction and when the actuating portion is in a depressed position, the driver disengages from the push or pull rod and allows movement in the reverse direction.